

Red Tail Flyer

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January 21, 2005

Gen. Buchanan visits injured



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Marc Barnes

Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III, 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander, talks with Capt. Tamra Weatherbee and Army Pfc. Matt Baugh at the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility Sunday.

The general stopped by the CASF to visit staff and patients during a short visit to Balad.

Captain Weatherbee is a staff nurse at the CASF deployed from the 59th Medical Wing at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and Private Baugh is a member of the Army's 15th Infantry Division deployed from Fort Lewis, Wash.

Don't 'burn' money, check with customs first

Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

332nd AEW Public Affairs

Wait! Don't buy that snazzy souvenir.

You might not be able to take it home and customs may destroy it.

Balad customs, the last stop before heading home, looks for items that may be dangerous to U.S. agriculture or to the public.

"We enforce U.S. customs and the United States Department of Agriculture regulations," said Capt. Gerald Mulhollen, 886th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Det. 1 customs. Captain Mulhollen is deployed from Laughlin AFB, Texas. "We make sure spores, insects, plants, soil and items made from embargoed countries don't get into the United States."

Embargoed countries include Iran, Cuba,

North Korea, Cambodia and Libya.

"If you're buying an item that you think may be from an embargoed country, ask the sales clerk," Captain Mulhollen said. "When buying souvenirs made out of natural materials make sure you know if the items are allowed in the U.S. Certain gifts such as framed insects and unvarnished wood are not allowed to leave the country."

Inspectors focus on dirt, insect, plant or animal materials, weapons, ammunition, explosives, drugs, and items illegal under General Order 1A.

"I would hate to have something from this country arrive home and destroy our agriculture," Captain Mulhollen said.

Before leaving Balad, people outprocessing must go through a customs briefing.

"We have a briefing that informs people about contraband and advises them to place their contraband into an amnesty box," Captain Mulhollen said. "After that, we start inspecting all the gear, clothing, luggage and personal items. Anything that we find that's a Uniform Code of Military Justice offense we turn over to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations."

All contraband found is taken to a burn pit to be destroyed. Once the person clears customs they are taken to another area and must stay there until their flight arrives.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 443-7474 or visit the Customs link off the Balad AB homepage.

For a list of prohibited items, see page 6.

Changing way deployments flow

By Senior Airman Shawn Clements

CENTAF Forward Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA – Airmen deploying to the Central Command theater in the past knew where they were going to land when boarding Air Mobility Command rotator flights in the United States, but what most of them didn't know was exactly how they were going to be routed onward to their final destination.

In November, AMC briefly froze the rotator system to implement several new processes, increasing predictability, efficiency and stability in travel to and from the area of responsibility. While frozen, the system was temporarily unavailable for travel booking – a short pause that did not cause anybody to miss needed flights.

The process in place before the current rotation didn't provide advanced booking from the main transit hub in theater to final deployed destinations. Airmen reaching the hub were essentially responsible for working with travel planners there to book their own intra-theater travel. Since travel planners also had limited visibility on Airmen flowing into theater, Airmen often ended up spending days at the hub awaiting transportation.

Additional time en route delayed arrivals at final destinations and in turn held home-bound deployers in place longer. To allow for unpredictable travel time, home station personnel readiness units began deploying people sooner to ensure people arrived on time at final destinations.

The resulting backlog of people at the hub stressed support services there and created frustration for individual deployers. Travel time does not "count" toward the 120-day deployment clock that begins upon arrival at the deployed location.

To improve the transportation system for this rotation, planners have made major changes to ensure deployments flow well.

The first step was changing the process so transportation schedulers rather than individual Airmen are responsible for taking action to request the most efficient travel arrangements. Similar to booking travel in the civilian world, logistics planners are working toward a "single ticket" system in which each deployer will be given full travel routing before departure from home station.

The second step was providing schedulers better visibility on each person moving through the system. To do that required a major change in airlift scheduling processes. Each airman is

assigned against an individual unit line number that can be assigned to a specific airframe.

Many Airmen in the current AEF 3/4 rotation will know their full travel plans before departing home stations. They will be met in an upgraded passenger terminal at the transit hub where they will be provided with their follow-on travel arrangements.

"The main goal of this new plan is to be able to get transient people out to their final deployed location within 12-24 hours of landing in theater," said Lt. Col. Robyn Burk, Central Command Air Force deputy chief of logistics.

To aid in this effort, the Air Force will designate additional stateside deployment departure terminals each rotation. Added this rotation to existing hubs at Baltimore and Atlanta International airports are Hill, Travis, Whiteman and Lackland Air Force Bases and Hurlburt Field.

The additional departure locations shorten travel time for passengers in other parts of the U.S. as well as delays that result when heavy baggage must be shipped separately. It also provides Air Mobility Division in theater better advance notice of requirements for intra-theater airlift movements.

This additional movement visibility will also make life bet-

ter for Airmen flowing through the transit hub. Officials with the 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron have created a system that accounts for each Airman and more smoothly transitions them onward.

"When transient people get off the rotator they now come into a reception control center, where we tell them everything they need to know," said Maj. Massey, 379th ELRS commander. Passengers should hand carry a uniform and overnight items for their stays at the hub.

Arriving Airmen will be required to leave their bags in a secured area of the brand new reception area while they await their connections.

Under the improved system, some Airmen will not even be routed through the transit hub. Logistics planners have arranged for several rotator flights to go directly from stateside departure points into final deployed locations.

The new transportation initiatives should make the current AEF rotation smoother for most of the nearly 18,000 affected Airmen.

"The process isn't going to be 100 percent effective in the beginning, but we hope that this will help alleviate the problems," said Colonel Burk. By the next rotation, she added, the system should work even better.

Got a story?

Know someone in your unit that has a unique story/hobby, or are you interested in writing a story?
Call The Red Tail Flyer at 458-1064 or e-mail:

redtailflyer@blab.af.mil



CASF vital to OIF medical mission

Tech. Sgt. Marc Barnes

332nd AEW/PA

The medical mission in Iraq is complex, made up of a variety of Air Force and Army units that provide care for service-members and Department of Defense civilians and contractors who need help with various ailments – ranging from minor scorpion stings to serious combat injuries.

But patients who need long-term treatment at hospitals outside Iraq depend on a single facility, part of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group here, to get them where they need to be – the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility.

The CASF, a medical passenger terminal of sorts, is the last stop in Iraq for patients traveling to Kuwait or Germany for medical treatment. The majority of its staff deployed to Balad from the 59th Medical Wing at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, but also includes Airmen from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., and Andrews AFB, Md.

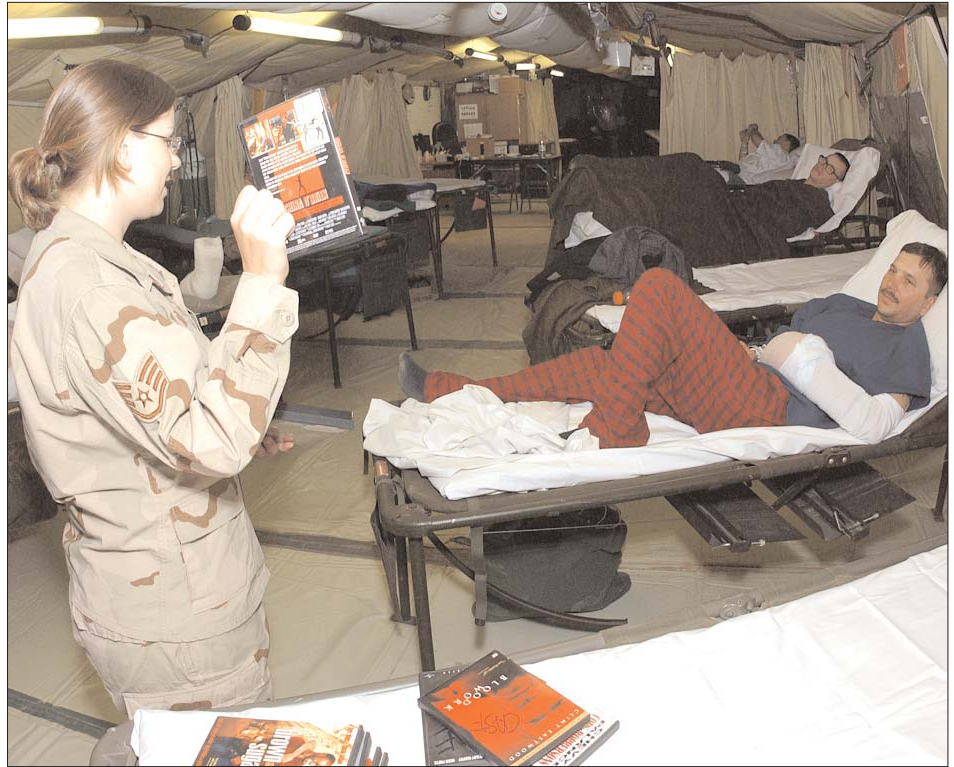
Lt. Col. John Ewing, from the 59th MDW at Lackland, took command of the facility Jan. 10 and will lead the CASF staff for the next four months. He said the facility is an “interface point” for medical facilities in Iraq and the aeromedical evacuation system.

“(We) provide nursing and medical care to patients while they await their airlift mission,” he explained, “ensuring they are medically and administratively prepared for their flights.”

That mission keeps the CASF staff busy 24 hours a day – either caring for those on their way out, or preparing for the next group of patients. They move an average of 175 people each week, and according to Colonel Ewing, they’re focused on giving each of those patients the medical care they need, and just as important, the attention they deserve.

“It’s important that they see we are taking good care of them and we value their contribution and the sacrifices they’ve made here,” the colonel said. “I think our staff does very well at making sure these people are well taken care of.”

Their efforts don’t go unnoticed; patients waiting for airlift at the facility



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Marc Barnes

Staff Sgt. Misty Varner, a medical technician in the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility, offers patients their choice of movies at the CASF Sunday. Sergeant Varner and other CASF medical professionals work to make patients' stay at the facility as comfortable as possible.

said the staff does a tremendous job of making sure their needs, and wants, are met.

“They are outstanding,” said Jeff Pall, a DoD contractor who was injured in a mortar attack last week and was waiting for an aeromedical evacuation flight to Germany Sunday at the CASF. “Being a civilian who once served in the Army, I have to say the (medical care) has come a long way.”

Army Sgt. Roger Hammonds agreed with Mr. Pall. The sergeant, a member of the Texas Army National Guard who was serving as a convoy gunner here, was injured when a roadside bomb exploded as his convoy drove near Al Taqaddum, in central Iraq, last week.

“They’ve kept me happy,” the sergeant said. “I have no complaints. (The CASF provides) better medical care than I’ve ever had back in the States.”

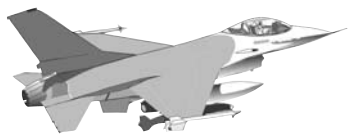
While Colonel Ewing said his staff is doing a great job, he also heaped praise on volunteers who regularly take their off-

duty time to care for CASF patients.

“Volunteers are a huge part of what we do here,” he said. “In fact, I don’t think we could do the mission as expeditiously without them. They’re incredibly important in helping us get patients out to the flightline and on to aircraft.”

A casual observer at the CASF may say the staff and volunteers are doing “God’s work” by providing care for the wounded heroes of Operation Iraqi Freedom, but Colonel Ewing said the folks at the CASF are just doing what they’re trained to do.

“In the greater sense we’re all doing God’s work here,” the colonel said, “but most medics would be demur and say ‘I’m just doing what I was trained to do.’ We are in a position to preserve life and function and help these folks who have been injured return to a normal life, or as close as possible to normal, dependent on their injuries. We’re here simply to provide the best care we can and to help them get home as soon as possible.”



F-16 life support



Air Force/Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

Senior Airman Kristi Bustra, 34th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron aircrew life support technician, inspects night vision goggles for a pilot preparing to go on a mission.

34th EFS life support ensures pilots live to fight another day

Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

332nd AEW Public Affairs

Imagine you're an F-16 fighter pilot and have to eject from your aircraft. You put your faith in your parachute, your radio and other survival equipment given to you, but your equip-

ment doesn't work and you become Missing in Action or worse.

The 34th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron life support unit makes sure that never happens to F-16 pilots stationed at Balad.

In an emergency, a pilot's life



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Marc Barnes

An F-16 fighter pilot exits his aircraft after landing. The 34th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron life support unit ensures pilots have functional survival and safety equipment. The unit packs and installs parachutes, survival kits and other things needed for a pilot's survival during a mission and in case of danger.

is in life support's hands, said Tech. Sgt. Dwain Earhart, 34th EFS life support NCOIC. The 34th EFS is deployed from Hill AFB, Utah.

"We make sure pilots have functional safety equipment," Sergeant Earhart said. "There is no room for error in our job. We have to insure equipment is 100 percent serviceable, otherwise there could be dire consequences."

The 34th EFS provides fighter pilots with combat ready life support equipment, ensuring pilot's safe return.

"We deal with devices pilots may use when in trouble," Sergeant Earhart said. "You hope they never use what we give them, but its there for them if they have to escape or evade."

They inspect survival equipment including parachutes, harnesses, oxygen related equip-

ment, survival radios, signal devices, anti-gravity suits, exposure coveralls and any other equipment a pilot may need to survive in distress.

They inspect all the equipment before a pilot goes on a mission.

"We inspect and install equipment in the seat such as parachutes and survival kits and make sure they have everything they need to fly," said Senior Airman Kristi Bustra, 34th EFS aircrew life support technician.

If a fighter got in trouble, they could be in extreme danger and possibly lost forever without life support, she added.

"The fighter world is a fast paced environment, especially here. I really enjoy working with the fighters and playing a part in the mission and defending our country."



Lt. Col. Mike "Hans" Gantt

332 EOSS/CC

The following is a letter to my daughter that I'll give to her when she turns 18.

Dear Mattie,

I missed your first birthday. It was not what I wanted to do, but it was what needed to be done. Daddy volunteered to go to Iraq for a year to take care of our country's business, fighting at Balad Air Base with many other moms and dads. We are fighting to make sure that your future is brighter than ours ever was.

You see, two months after your brother was born, terrorists flew airplanes into the World Trade Center in New York City. This attack was the first in an attempt to bring down our nation and destroy our way of life. What the attack really did was fan the flames of patriotism; reigniting in the American people a sense of pride in their nation. And as a nation, we decided that we could not sit around and wait for the next terrorist strike; we had made that mistake too many times in the past. No, now we take the fight to the enemy. And our enemy is terrorists.

These terrorists, not insurgents, not militarists, not jihadists, but terrorists have temporarily shifted their fight away from our country; they now focus their evil ways attempting to destroy any chance for liberty, democracy, and freedom in Iraq.

As the end of January 2005 approaches, the Iraqi people are getting ready to vote for actual bona fide candidates for the first time in over 30 years. Our task in Iraq is to provide the conditions for liberty and democracy to grow and flourish, even as many say that they will never work in the Middle East.

As the proud commander of the 332d Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, I lead the men and women responsible for contributing combat air power to all of Iraq.

As an F-16 fighter pilot, I'm doing my part to support the Coalition Forces in their very difficult missions: providing security for polling places and continuing the search and destroy missions to rid Iraq of terrorists.

As an American, I'm doing what my generation has been called to do. Many of our countrymen do not understand the global nature of this war or the mindset of our enemy. I don't worry, because eventually, they will. They will understand that there is only one way to defeat this enemy, and that way is total destruction of the terrorists.

They will also come to realize that the blessings of liberty and freedom that we have in our country are so very important, not only to us, but to the rest of the world.

And Mattie, none of what I do would be possible without the love and support of your mom and brother, your grandparents, extend-

ed family, and many other people who you and I will never know.

The amount of support that we receive is absolutely amazing. We receive more packages and goodies than we could ever use: elementary schools send well-intentioned greeting cards with misspelled words, VFWs send knitted boots and boxes of baby wipes, local volunteer groups send toilet paper, and grandmas send cookies.

Everything an Airman needs in time of war! It is this very giving nature of America that makes us proud to serve and to be a part of our nation's military. It is these little things that make our job that much easier.

And so you see, Mattie, I didn't just miss your birthday on purpose. I missed it because I want to see that you and every other child grow up with the freedoms that you so richly deserve.

Since I could not be with you on your birthday, I will have given this letter to you for your 18th birthday. As you read this in September of 2021, I don't know where we will be, what our world will be like, or what has become of Iraq.

What I do know is this: as a nation, we have taken a bold step for the future and I am proud to be a part of it. I only hope that your generation and those that follow understand our commitment to freedom and liberty.

All of my love,

Dad

Housekeeping Means Safe Keeping

By Tech. Sgt. William Rathbun
332nd AEW Safety

What could make a sweeping change to the safety of a workplace?

The answer: Good Housekeeping.

Poor housekeeping plays a role in many workplace injuries and incidents. Fires, tripping, falls and many other problems could be avoided by clearing off floor space, eliminating clutter and scheduling preventative tasks regularly.

The following checklist is a guide to safe keeping – wise housekeeping for the workplace:

- Clean floors regularly so they are dry and free of dirt, mud, grease and trash.
- Keep traffic paths clear at all times. A

path through the building should be at least as wide as the exit door. Keep it free of tripping hazards such as electrical cords.

- Clear hazards from exits and make sure exits are well-marked.

■ Do not use stairways, hallways or aisles for storage. Make sure no materials jut out into passageways, causing danger of tripping or of slowing evacuation in an emergency. Keep chairs and stools out of the traffic path.

- Replace lights as soon as they burn out, and ensure each area's lighting is bright enough for safety.

- If extra supplies or materials are stored in the workplace, stack them in stable piles.

- Empty garbage regularly. Locate trash cans where they are needed.

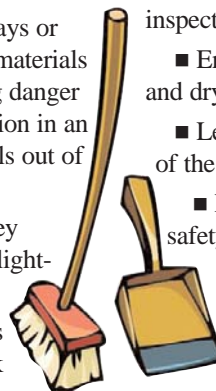
- Locate fire extinguishers where they are easy to reach. Clear the path to them. Recharge fire extinguishers routinely and inspect monthly.

- Ensure washrooms are also kept clean and dry.

- Leave work stations tidied at the end of the shift.

- Report safety violations to wing safety or unit safety representative.

Share the responsibility for jobsite housekeeping. Do your part in keeping floors clean and you'll do your part in keeping everyone safer.



Customs prohibited items

The following is a list of prohibited items that are not allowed to leave Iraq:

- Explosives, flammables, and white phosphorous matches. Destructive devices, explosive caps, explosive bolts, tear gas, "pepper" spray, projectiles, artillery simulators, hand grenades, etc.
- Counterfeits of coins, money, securities, obligations, postage or revenue stamps, and colored illustrations of postage stamps of the U.S. or other foreign countries
- Lottery tickets or advertisements for a foreign lottery
- Goods made by convict labor, forced labor, or indentured labor under penal sanction. Child labor is forced labor
- War trophies
- Obscene or pornographic articles, books, pictures, films, communications, videotapes, or movies

- Material which is seditious, treasonable, or insurrectionary toward the U.S., or advocates the forcible resistance to any U.S. law

- Butterfly knives

- Items, goods, and merchandise acquired from gambling, force, duress, blackmail, trickery, theft, and any other form of ill begotten means

- Foreign assets control materials such as another nation's flag that was not intended for sale or distribution

- Toxic or poisonous substances

- Maps or documents marked "secret" or higher or maps with any military markings, such as convoy routes

- Personal effects of enemy soldiers such as body parts, dog tags, letters, ID cards, etc.

- Archeological artifacts and national treasures. Stones, sand, dirt, gravel, rocks and

boulders are prohibited by Central Command authority, regardless of how clean or sentimental they might be

- Controlled substances and drug paraphernalia

- Articles originating from embargoed countries

- Copyright violations

- Restricted articles that have not met the conditions of the restriction

- Soil, earth, and sand

- Khapra beetles

- Green sugarcane

- Coconuts

- Live insects, slugs, and snails

- Dried and preserved insects, slugs and snails

- Fresh fruit and vegetables

- All live plants and parts thereof including seeds, bulbs, roots, leaves, various grains, grasses, straw, hay and house plants

- Milk and cream

- Foreign meats and meat products, whether fresh, dried, cured, frozen or pickled, and all cooked meats

- All plant matter. This includes dried or fresh plants, seeds, roots, bulbs, flowers, fruit, leaves, various grains, hay, straw, soil, forest litter, and grasses.

- Wild animals, birds, or parts thereof alive or dead. This includes any wild animal, bird, reptile, amphibian, mollusk, fish, or dead body, egg, or other part.

- Raw products such as raw cotton, animal horns, untanned hides or skins, bone, hair, fur, raw wool

- Bird byproducts including: eggs, feathers, and claws

- Fertilizer, forest litter, manure, or plant food

- Green bamboo

- Elephant hair, ivory



PUBLIC HEALTH NOTE

Anti-malarials no longer required in Iraq

The U.S. Central Command's policy on vector-borne disease and malaria has been revised.

Based on current disease trends, USCENTAF forces stationed in Iraq are no longer required to take anti-malarials.

Servicemembers stationed in Iraq will use personal protective measures against leishmaniasis and sand fly fever.

Protective measures include using 33 percent DEET repellent and wearing permethrin treated uniforms.

A year-round requirement to have three tubes of time release DEET cream and permethrin pre-treated uniforms is required for all deployers prior to departing the home station.

Public Health personnel will continue to actively monitor Iraq's environmental conditions that could necessitate resumption of malarial drugs in currently malaria-free areas.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Public Health office at 443-7304.

Meet your neighbor



Senior Airman Gina Bulmer

Home station: Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Unit: 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Protocol

Family: Bryan (husband) and Jayden (son).

Hobbies: I enjoy exercising and spending quality time with my family.

How do you contribute to the mission? I help ensure each distinguished visitor who arrives on Balad is welcomed in a professional manner.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? My favorite aspect is my job. It allows me to meet different people and see different agencies on base.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home? Home cooked meals.

COMM TIPS

Morale Calls

- Due to limited resources and lack of commercial services, authorized morale calls must be kept to a minimum
- Wing Policy states each individual is authorized two, 15-minute morale calls per week
- Home base operators can set up morale calls and allow access to commercial phone companies for long distance calls
- Base DSN numbers are listed in Balad's base phone listing at <http://blab-web-n.blab.aorcentaf.af.mil/>

Air Force Religious Schedule

Protestant

Sundays:

9 a.m. Traditional – Hospital
11 a.m. • Contemporary Worship – H-6 Chapel
2 p.m. • Bible Study – Hospital
5:30 p.m. • Inspirational Worship – H-6 Chapel

Fridays:

7:30 p.m. • Woman's Bible Study – Hospital

Daily:

8:30 p.m. • Band of Brothers – H-6 Chapel
9 p.m. • Prayer – H-6 Chapel

Islamic

Fridays:

1:30 p.m. • Prayer – Provider Chapel

Church of Christ

Sundays:

11 a.m. • Worship – 1/142nd Chapel Tent

Lutheran

Sundays:

8:30 a.m. • Cherokee Chapel
2 p.m. • 185th Task Force Tent

Roman Catholic

Daily

Mass – When Catholic Chaplain is

available

Confessions – Offered prior to Daily Mass

Saturdays:

7:30 p.m. • Mass – H-6 Chapel

Sundays:

9 a.m. • Mass – H-6 Chapel
2 p.m. • Mass – CJSOTD Chapel
3:30 P.m. • Mass – JSOAP-AP Chapel

Wednesdays:

9:30 a.m. • Mass – CASF

Fridays:

6 p.m. • Reconciliation – Hospital
6:30 p.m. • Mass – Hospital

Latter Day Saints

Sundays:

7 p.m. • Sacraments – H-6 Chapel
8 p.m. • Sunday School – H-6 Chapel

Jewish

Fridays:

6:30 p.m. • Prayer – Eden Chapel

Orthodox

Sundays:

11 a.m. • Divine Liturgy – 185th Task Force Tent

Saturdays:

7 p.m. • Vespers – 185th Task Force Tent

Know what this is?

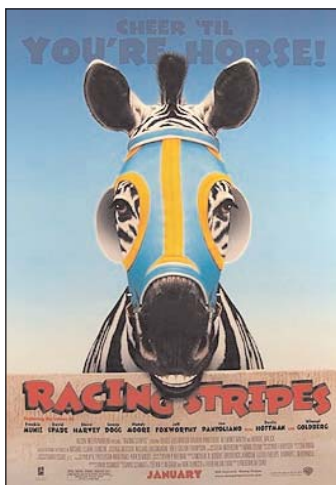


Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Marc Barnes

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. The first person with the correct answer wins a \$5 gift certificate courtesy of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Last week's photo of a side of a lock went unidentified so an additional \$5 gift certificate will be awarded for this week's correct answer.

Sustainer Movie Schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today, Jan. 21

3 p.m. - Racing Stripes
6 p.m. - Seed of Chucky
9 p.m. - Racing Stripes

Saturday, Jan. 22

3 p.m. - The Polar Express
6 p.m. - Seed of Chucky
9 p.m. - Racing Stripes

Sunday, Jan. 23

3 p.m. - Saw
6 p.m. - The Forgotten
9 p.m. - Seed of Chucky

Monday, Jan. 24

3 p.m. - The Grudge

6 p.m. - To be decided

9 p.m. - Racing Stripes

Tuesday, Jan. 25

3 p.m. - Friday Night Lights
6 p.m. - Seed of Chucky
9 p.m. - The Punisher

Wednesday, Jan. 26

3 p.m. - I Heart Huckabees
6 p.m. - Team America
9 p.m. - Flight of the Phoenix

Thursday, Jan. 27

3 p.m. - Racing Stripes
6 p.m. - Napoleon Dynamite
9 p.m. - Seed of Chucky



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Red Tail Flyer Editor

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